



Standard n° 4/007

WDF American Staffordshire Terrier

ORIGIN: (USA)

UTILITY: Bull-Type

CLASSIFICATION: Group 4 – Bull Type Dogs

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Years ago several dog breeds were created in Great Britain to excel in blood sports. They were expected to fight each other, or were set loose in a pack against an impaled bear or bull, with spectators betting on the grisly outcome. Such revolting pastimes have long been banned. These sad sights, however, have left us a happy legacy: Many of today's most beloved breeds, including the Bulldog, Bull Terrier, and American Staffordshire Terrier, began as fighting and baiting dogs in the 18th and 19th centuries. When it comes to bull terrier type breeds, everyone can agree that the common component in their composition was the Bulldog. (Note that the Bulldog of 200 years ago was a very different and more ferocious creature than the lovable "mugs" of today.) The discussion begins when breed experts try to pinpoint which pre-existing terrier breeds reside in the genetic background of the AmStaff. Some suggest that extinct breeds such as the White English Terrier and the Black-and-Tan Terrier were part of the genetic mix that led to the creation of the Staffordshire Terrier, a precursor to the AmStaff.

Whatever the true genetic makeup of the AmStaff, we are certain that working-class Englishmen with an interest in blood sports combined the stocky build and punishing jaws of the old-fashioned Bulldogs with the innate courage and "playfulness" of the terriers to create bull type breeds. terrier breeds.

By the mid-1800s, Staffordshire Terriers had arrived in America. US breeders developed a Staffordshire Terrier that was larger than the English version. Eventually, the AKC recognized the two types as separate breeds: the Staffordshire Bull Terrier and the American Staffordshire Terrier.

The well-mannered AmStaff of today is a quieter type than his fighting ancestors and has long been a great American favorite. This is suggested by the numerous sightings of the breed in our popular culture: in 1903, an AmStaff named Bud was with us on

America's first cross-country road trip (the subject of Ken Burns' documentary "Horatio's Drive"); Petey, in the old "Our Gang" movie comedies of the 1930s, was an AmStaff, as was Tige, the dog in the Buster Brown Shoes logo; and America's most decorated American war dog was an AmStaff named Sgt. Stubby, a World War I K-9 who counted three U.S. presidents among his admirers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION:

The American Staffordshire Terrier, known to their fans as AmStaffs, are smart, confident, good-natured companions. Their courage is proverbial. A responsibly bred, well-socialized AmStaff is a loyal, trustworthy friend to the end. AmStaffs are stocky, muscular bull-type terriers standing 17 to 19 inches at the shoulder. The head is broad, the jaws well defined, the cheekbones pronounced, and the dark, round eyes are set wide apart. AmStaff movement is agile and graceful, with a springy gait that advertises the breed's innate confidence. The stiff, glossy coat comes in many colors and patterns. AmStaffers describe their dogs as keenly aware of their surroundings, game for anything, and lovable 'personality dogs' • around the house. AmStaffs like mental and physical challenges. They are highly trainable, as their many forays into showbiz suggest. When acquiring an AmStaff, there's only one way to go: Do your homework and find a responsible WDF breeder.

HEAD: Medium length, deep through.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: broad. Stop: Distinct.

FACIAL REGION: Nose: Definitely black. Muzzle: Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below the eyes.

Lips: Close and even; no looseness.

Jaws/Teeth: Well defined. Under jaw strong and to have biting power. Upper teeth to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front.

Cheeks: Very pronounced cheek muscles.

EYES: Dark, round, low down in skull, set far apart. No pink eyelids.

EARS: Set high. Cropped or uncropped, the latter preferred. Uncropped ears should be short and held rose or half prick. Full drop to be penalized.

NECK: Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

BODY: Topline : Back fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail. Loins: Slightly tucked. Chest: Deep and broad. Well sprung ribs; close together, deep in rear.

TAIL: Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to fine point; not curled or carried over back. Not docked.

LIMBS:

FOREQUARTERS: Front legs straight, with large bones. Set rather wide apart to permit chest development.

Shoulders: Strong and muscular, with blades wide and sloping.

Pastern: Upright. Forefeet: Of moderate size, well arched and compact.

HINDQUARTERS: Well muscled.

Hocks: Let down, turning neither in nor out. Hind feet: Of moderate size, well arched and compact.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Springy but without roll or pace.

COAT Hair: Short, close, stiff to the touch, glossy.

Colour: Any colour, solid, particolour, or patched is permissible; but more than 80% white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

SIZE: Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about eighteen to nineteen inches (46 - 48 cm) at the shoulder for the male and seventeen to eighteen inches (43 - 46 cm) for the female to be considered preferable.

FAULTS : Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

- Dudley nose.
- Undershot or overshot mouth.
- Light eyes.
- Pink eyelids.
- Tail too long or badly carried.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

N.B:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

The Standard Commission

